



Chemical Terrorism Clinical Specimen Packaging

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Pack and ship these specimens as DIAGNOSTIC specimens. Packaging consists of three components: primary receptacle (blood tubes or urine cups), secondary packaging (materials for protecting primary receptacles, absorbent material, and waterproof, 95 kPa pressure resistant packaging), and an outer packaging (Styrofoam-insulated corrugated, fiberboard box).

Secondary packaging

Blood Tubes—

- Separate each tube of blood collected from other tubes, or wrap tubes to prevent contact between tubes; this may be accomplished in a variety of ways such as a gridded box wrapped with absorbent material and sealed inside a plastic bag, sealable Styrofoam container, blood tube shipment sleeve and transport tube, and individually wrapped tubes sealed inside a plastic bag. **Secondary packaging must have its closure secured with a single strip of tamper-evident forensic evidence tape initialed ½ on the packaging and ½ on the evidence tape by the individual making the seal.**
- Place absorbent material between the primary receptacle and the secondary packaging. Use enough absorbent material to absorb the entire contents of primary receptacles.
- To facilitate processing, package blood tubes so that similar tubes are packaged together (e.g., all purple-tops together) and not mixed (i.e., purple-tops and green/gray-tops in the same package).

Urine Cups—

- Separate each urine cup from other urine cups or wrap urine cups to prevent contact between urine cups.
- Place urine cups in secondary packages. A variety of secondary packages may be used, for example, gridded box wrapped with absorbent material and sealed inside a plastic bag or individually wrapped urine cups sealed inside a plastic bag. In either case verify that the urine cup or secondary packaging complies with the requirements stated in 49 CFR173.199(b). **Secondary packaging must have its closure secured with a single strip of tamper-evident forensic evidence tape initialed ½ on the packaging and ½ on the evidence tape by the individual making the seal.**

Outer packaging

Use Styrofoam-insulated corrugated fiberboard boxes (may be available from your transfusion service or send-outs department). **Do not ship frozen urine cups and blood tubes in the same package.**

Blood tubes— Ship at 4°C

- For cushioning, place additional absorbent material in the bottom of the outer packaging.
- Add a layer of frozen cold packs.
- Place secondary packaging on top of the cold packs.

- Place additional cold packs or absorbent material between the secondary packaging to reduce their movement within the outer packaging.
- Place a layer of frozen cold packs on top of the secondary packaging.

Urine cups— Ship to ensure specimens remain frozen or freeze while in transport

- For cushioning, place additional absorbent material in the bottom of the outer packaging.
- **Add a layer of dry ice. Note:** Do not use large chunks of dry ice for shipment, because large chunks have the potential for shattering urine cups during transport.
- Place additional absorbent material between wrapped urine cups to reduce their movement within the outer packaging.
- **Add an additional layer of dry ice.**